

Assembly Bill 2494

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TRAINING

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ISSUE

In Home Support Services is a program that allows several hundred thousand Californians to stay at home rather than be institutionalized. Many of these consumers care about the quality of the program and believe the quality begins with the provider. IHSS providers are paid low wages for hard work that they find necessary and rewarding. Training programs teach providers how to do their job safely. However, because they cannot be paid for training, many cannot receive the benefit.

Currently, there is no mandated training program for providers of In-Home Supportive Services. Several counties offer training programs for providers negotiated into existence by local union representatives. However, participation in these training programs is very low due to the burden on the provider to participate on their own time.

EXISTING LAW

Under existing law, providers of In-Home Supportive Services are paid hourly wages for performing duties for the consumers of IHSS, as prescribed in Welfare and Institutions Code 12300.

THIS BILL

The intent of this bill is to allow providers of IHSS to include job service training as part of their prescribed duties.

SUMMARY

This bill:

- Includes up to 6 hours of instruction per calendar year subject to the following conditions: 1) instruction is provided under the supervision of an RN, LVN, CAN social worker, or appropriate person authorized or determined by the local Public Authority; 2) a County must agree to bargain with their respective union counterpart; 3) the instruction must be pre-approved by the California Department of Social Services; 4) the training must qualify for federal financial participation; and 5) training hours will not count against authorized hours of the consumer.
- Makes no General Fund obligation unless the Legislature agrees to appropriate the funds when it is determined that General Fund monies are available for this purpose.
- Allows the training to be performed by a registered nurse, social worker, licensed vocational nurse, certified nurse assistant and anyone authorized by the local public authority.

FAQs

If training is provided locally why is there a need for AB 2494?

Currently, training is available to IHSS providers if the local union and/or public authority have negotiated for the training program. As it stands now, providers cannot, by current statute, receive hourly wages for job service training. All training is completely voluntary and must be done on the provider's own time.

Will AB 2494 reduce the number of hours a consumer can receive in care?

No. The intent of AB 2494 is to furnish providers with up to 6 hours of instruction per calendar year. The client's authorized hours will not be reduced.

Many consumers prefer to train their IHSS providers to their specific needs and preferences. Will AB 2494 strip consumers of this benefit?

AB 2494 does not standardize or mandate training for providers. The provider must participate in the program approved by the collective bargaining agreement in order to earn wages for training. This training will only supplement care given, but not supplant the special needs and desires of the client.

BACKGROUND

In Home Supportive Services provides care to seniors and the disabled who would otherwise not be able to live safely in their own homes. Over 340,000 Californians use this program which is funded by federal, state and county governments. Care is given by providers who receive low hourly wages and in many instances, have limited or no health benefits.

The curriculum for IHSS provider training is designed locally through the contributions of trained registered nurses, certified nurse's assistants, college professors, county workers and the local union. In Los Angeles county trainings are held in over five languages!

Additionally, many local unions work in conjunction with county public authorities, the employer of record for IHSS providers, to create a training curriculum for new providers that include education in CPR, First Aid, universal services, dementia and Alzheimer recognition.

Most training classes are held on a community college campus, county offices or a local union hall. Funding for training is usually contingent upon local unions and/or counties. In San Francisco, non-credit classes were offered at the city college, but only when funding was made available.

SUPPORT

Service Employees International Union (Sponsor)
California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) (Sponsor)

OPPOSITION

None on file.

STATUS

Introduced on February 24, 2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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